

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11, 13-16 and 18-33 are pending in this application. Claim 14 has been amended by essentially incorporating the subject matter of claim 17. Claim 17 has accordingly been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 18 and 19 have thus been amended to depend upon claim 14. No new matter has been added.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-3, 7-11, 13-16 and 20-23 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Anderson et al taken with Ishii et al. The cited references do not make the presently claimed invention to be obvious.

However, the applicants point out that the present application claims priority under 35 USC 119 on the priority application, JP 2001-040744, which has a filing date of February 16, 2001. The cited reference of Ishii et al., Publication No. US 2001/0053435, has a filing date of April 19, 2001 and a publication date of December 20, 2001. Thus, the priority date of the present application precedes the publication date and filing date of Ishii et al.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner has acknowledged the applicants' claim of priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. The applicants now perfect their claim of priority by submitting a Verified English Translation of the priority application, JP 2001-040744. The applicants submit that the priority documents fully supports the present claims. Accordingly, the applicants submit that the citation of Ishii et al. is improper and should be withdrawn.

By the withdrawal of the Ishii reference, claims 1-3, 7-11, 13-16 and 20-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) only in view of the sole reference, Anderson et

al. At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that Anderson does not disclose the opacity of the recited substrate. Claim 1 recites the opacity of the light transmitting support. The Examiner attempted to remedy this deficiency by citing the reference of Ishii et al. to teach a substrate comprising a transparent PET having opacity of 13-16%. However, the reference of Ishii et al. is withdrawn and there is no reference that discloses the opacity of the recited substrate. The applicants submit that claim 1 and all claims depending on claim 1, i.e., claims 2-11 and 13, are allowable.

The applicants assert that claims 1-3, 7-11, 13-16 and 20-23 are fully allowable under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Anderson et al. Claims 4, 5 and 6 were found to be allowable but depend upon a rejected base claim. Given that claim 1 is allowable, then claims 4, 5 and 6 are allowable.

With respect to the remaining rejected claims, which are independent claim 14 and dependent claims 15-23, the applicants note that claims 17-19 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of any intervening claims (see page 5 of Office Action). Claims 17-19 directly or indirectly depend upon independent claim 14. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 17 has been incorporated by amendment into independent claim 14 to result in claim 14 being allowable. Claim 17 has been cancelled and the dependency of claims 18 and 19 amended to depend upon claim 14. Thus, the applicants submit that claim 14 is allowable together with all claims dependent on claim 14, i.e., claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.

Accordingly, the applicants submit that claims 1-11, 13, 14-16, and 18-23 are allowable.

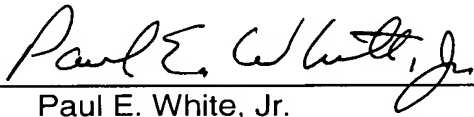
Further, the applicants note that claims 24-33 are allowed (see Office Action at page 5).

Therefore, the applicants submit that claims 1-11, 13-16, and 18-33 are allowable or allowed in this application.

In view of the above and the enclosed Verified English Translation of the priority application, and there being no other objections or rejections, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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